BPL families in Assam

1600. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the families living below poverty line have so far been identified in Assam for coverage under the Centrally-sponsored schemes like Antyodaya Anna Yojana etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been carried out to find out the purchasing capacity; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) State Government of Assam have identified and issued distinctive ration cards to all the 2.81 lakh Antyodaya families in the State.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sugar scandal in Maharashtra

1601. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sugar scandal in Maharashtra as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated the 11th December, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when this had been going on and whether the Central Excise Department has been asked to investigate the matter;

(d) if so, the loss incurred to the exchequer; and

(e) the details of the accused involved and the action taken to control such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) In order to prevent the diversion of sugar meant for export in the domestic market, the copies of the export release orders are being endorsed to the concerned State and Central Excise authorities so that they can also monitor despatches. In case of default, the issue of further export release orders is also withheld. Such action has been taken with respect to 13 exporters.

Comissioning and use of equipments in BIS

1602. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fact that Principal Director of Audit for Scientific Departments had observed in their report for the period 1993-98 that there had been delays in commissioning of many equipments and various equipments were underutilised in the Bureau of Indian Standards;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in commissioning and under-utilisation of various equipments; and

(c) the action taken against the officers responsible for delayed commissioning and under-utilisation of the equipments in BIS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The delay in commissioning of equipments and underutilization of various equipments appear to have been occurred due to poor project planning and lack of monitoring at all levels.

(c) Requisite disciplinary action is being taken against concerned officers by Bureau of Indian Standards in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission.